



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 8, 1997

S. 801

Department of Veterans Affairs Employment Discrimination Resolution And Adjudication Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs
on October 7, 1997*

S. 801 would restructure authority and responsibility for overseeing equal employment opportunities within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). CBO estimates that enacting this legislation would have an insignificant budgetary impact. Because the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The provisions of S. 801 are excluded from consideration under the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act because they would establish or enforce statutory rights that prohibit discrimination.

S. 801 would create the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication within VA to adjudicate complaints of employment discrimination by employees of VA. The bill would also reallocate responsibilities within VA so that more employees would have duties related only to matters of employment discrimination, and it would require that such employees be outside of the control of the director of the facility where they work. In addition, the bill would require an independent assessment of VA's practices and procedures for resolving complaints of employment discrimination.

VA is currently revising its system for processing and adjudicating claims of employment discrimination, and CBO expects that many changes required by the bill would probably occur under current law. Other changes in procedures would not add significant costs.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Valerie Barton. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.